

REMARKS

Claims 1, 16, and 29-31 are currently amended to correct typographical errors and/or more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention in order to advance this case toward issuance. New claims 32-58 have been added. No new matter has been added by these amendments and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. *See, e.g.*, Page 7, Lines 18-23; Page 8, Lines 1-17; Page 10, Lines 6-10; Page 11, Lines 10-18; Page 15, Lines 14-16; Page 17, Lines 11-13; Page 24, Lines 13-19; Page 26, Lines 5-24; Page 27, Lines 1-8; Page 38, Lines 6-9; Page 41, Lines 22-23; Page 42, Lines 1-2; Page 47, Lines 20-23; Page 48, Lines 1-2; Page 49, Lines 19-23; Page 50, Lines 1-15; and Fig. 7. Claims 1-58 are pending and under consideration, with claims 1, 16, 29, 56, 57 and 58 being independent.

Applicant graciously thanks the Examiner for the interviews granted to Applicant's representatives. The pending rejections in this matter were discussed, but no formal agreement was reached.

1. Claim Rejections Based on Maegawa

Claims 1-31, stand rejected under 35 USC §§ 102 and 103, in whole or in part, by US Patent 5,966,386 to Maegawa. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and disagrees that Maegawa renders any of these claim unpatentable. Although Applicant does not agree that these claims are unpatentable, in order to clarify the claimed invention, however, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 16 and 29 as shown above. As Maegawa fails to disclose each and every element of amended claims 1-31, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

2. Conclusion

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

All of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. Applicant respectfully requests that all claims be allowed. A \$757 check for the RCE filing fee and additional claims fee is enclosed. In the event any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



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